CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for making a modified nucleoside comprising a covalently attached signalling moiety or signalling moiety precursor, said method comprising:

a) adding an anhydro-nucleoside and a signalling moiety or signalling moiety precursor comprising a primary amine in the presence of an activation agent to form an activated anhydro-nucleoside;

b) treating said activated anhydro-nucleoside with a cyclization agent to form a cyclized intermediate; and

c) treating said cyclized intermediate with a base to form said modified nucleoside.

2. A method according to claim 1 further comprising adding a phosphoramidite group to said modified nucleoside.

3. A method according to claim 2 further comprising incorporating said phosphoramidite modified nucleoside into a growing nucleic acid.

4. A method according to claim 1 wherein said nucleoside is a naturally occuring nucleoside.

5. A method according to claim 1 wherein said nucleoside is a nucleoside analog.

6. A method according to claim 1 wherein said activating agent is carbonydimidazole.